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THE

CONFESSION

Of the Four

High-Way-Men;

As it was Written by One of them, and Allowed by the Rest the 14th. of this Instant *April* (being the Day before their Appointed Execution).

Viz.
- JOHN WILLIAMS, alias *Tho. Matchet.*
- FRANCIS JACKSON, alias *Dixie.*
- JOHN WHITE, alias *Fowler.*
- WALTER PARKHURST.

This being desired to be made Publick by the Persons themselves, to prevent false Reports of them when they are Dead.

With Allowance.

London, Printed for *D. M.* 1674.

1132. c. 63.

THE CONFESSION Of the Four High-Way-Men.

UPon the request of a Friend, but chiefly to prevent false *Pamphlets* which may arise of our Deaths, as it did at our Taking; We have given this Truth under our Hands, the Day before Execution, That on *Monday* the 16th of *March*, *Walter Parkhurst*, *James Slader*, and *John Williams*: committed a Robbery upon *Windsor-Coach* near *Hounslow-Heath*, being in sight of about a dozen *Gentlemen*, well Armed and mounted, who pursued us for five or six miles before we could lose sight of them.

That on the 18th of the same Moneth, we the forementioned Parties took *John White*, and *Francis Jackson* along with us, and beyond *Hounslow* in *Bedfond-Lane* near *Staines*, Robb'd two Coaches. We struck off from thence into *Acton* Road supposing our selves discovered by a Gentle mans Man in a Green-Livery, who was a hunting: Who upon the sight of us, made haste the neerest way over the Fields to *Actons* we thought to get best course to make *Harrow* on the Hill, and did suppose our selves pursued all the Way, though we never saw any certain Evidence of it until we came there, where in the Town we found about Forty or Fifty Men ready to receive us with Guns, Pitchforks, and all sorts of

Weapons, ſo that we rode down the Hill by the ſide of the Town, at the bottom of which we found a great number of Horſe and Foot ready to receive us; Which we ſoon made run into the Houſes for ſhelter, and ſo rode on towards *Paddington*, and from thence towards *Kilburn* and *Hendon*, and from thence to *Hampſtead-Heath*; but was ſo hotly engag'd all the way by our Purſuers, that it was about ten or eleven a Clock, when we were at *Harrow* on the the Hill, and it was ſix of the clock when we recovered *Hampſtead-Heath*, our Powder and Shot being all gone, and ſome of our Swords, and moſt of us ſorely Wounded & Bruiſed about two of the clock.

There was a Life-Guard Man that fought with a great deal of Courage moſt part of that day. There was about two hundred Men upon *Hampſtead-Heath*, which was near about an hour before they could take us; having nothing but our Swords, and ſome of us not them: from thence to *Newgate*; from thence to the Seſſions Houſe, where *Parkhurſt* and *Williams* pleaded guilty to their Indictments; the others the contrary; but all Caſt.

We write not this as if we glorified in the Action, the Cauſe being ſo *Criminal* and *Bad*; and yet if the Cauſe had been good there could not have been a *Nobler Defence*. And we Wiſh that all People may take Warning by our Miſerable End, which ſhall be the ſubſtance of our Diſcourſe at the Place of Execution; Concluding with a *Prayer*.

John Williams.
Francis Jackſon.
John White.
Walter Parkhurſt.

A RELATION OF THEIR TRYAL.

A *Middlesex* Jury being called, the aforesaid Prisoners were set to the Bar, and were severally arraigned upon no less than 14. Indictments that were brought against them by several persons whom they had robbed at *Hounslow*, *Hendon* and several other places upon the Road the 16th. and 18th. days of *March* last; and taken from them their Horses, Gold, Silver, Watches, Lace, Rings, Linnen and several other things in the said Indictments particularly recited; Ten of these Indictments were for Felony and Robbery, the four last were for Murther of two of those honest Country Men that assisted to take them; their Names were *Henry Miller* and *Edward Kemp*; The two first Indictments were taken upon the Coroners Inquest for the killing of *Henry Miller*, against *Francis Jackson* one of the Prisoners at the Bar, who run him through with his Rapier, and against the other three as aiding and assisting him in the Murther.

The other two Indictments were upon the Inquest of the Grand Jury of *Middlesex* for the Murther of the said *Edward Kemp*, by *James Slader* deceased, and against the other four Prisoners for aiding and assisting him, as in the former Indictment.

It was held convenient to lay these Indictments several ways, although the Facts were the same in

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The first Indictment upon which they were Arraigned was for a Robbery at *Hounslow* upon the 16th. of *March* last, where they Robbed one *James Hepper* and several others in a Stage-Coach, and took from them a Watch, Rings, Monies and other things of a considerable value; to which *Parker* and *Williams* pleaded not Guilty, but the other two *viz. Jackson* and *White* refused to plead.

White insisted that his Wife was taken Prisoner (upon her going upon his occasions) upon suspicion of Felony, whereas there was no just cause against her, therefore desired that the Court would call her to a Trial before he pleaded; that he might vindicate her in that particular.

The Court replied; there was no Inditement as then ready against her, and therefore could not proceed upon her Trial; but that at her Trial she should have justice done her, and willed him to plead.

Jackson likewise refused to plead, alledging, That the Country had Robbed him, instead of his robbing of them, and had taken away 40 s. of his own Mony from him, which he desired might be restored before he pleaded.

The *Court* answered, He should have all Justice done him, but he must plead first, and that if he should be Convicted, the Moneys ought not to be restored to him, for it was then forfeited. Notwithstanding neither the said *Jackson* nor *White* would plead to the Inditement.

Hereupon a second Indictment was read against them and the other Two, for the Robbing of several Persons upon the 18 of *March* last, to which they all pleaded not Guilty.

A Third Indictment was read against them for the robing of one Mr. *Periant* about the same time. To which again the said *Jackson* and *White* refused to plead, insisting as before.

They were told, They had already pleaded Not Guilty to one Inditement; and if they refused to plead now, they would be accessary to their own Deaths, and be convicted as Mutes; and thereupon caused the words of the Statute to be read to them.

Wherein were set forth the Dreadful Punishments that were to be inflicted upon such Convicts, by pressing. Notwithstanding which, the many Arguments that were tryed by the Court against such a destructive obstinacy, they wilfully stood it out till all the Indictments were read over; to which the other Two, viz. *Parker* and *Williams* severally pleaded *Not Guilty*.

At last, after being urged with the danger of their Refusals, and advised to consult together for their own safety, they pleaded severally *Not Guilty*, to all the Indictments.

Then the Jury being sworn, and the Witnesses called; the First Robbery was apparently proved by a Watch and other things that were taken from them by the Countrymen at *Hampstead*; which were owned by their Owners upon Oath. And so the Second, Third, Fourth, and the rest of the Robberies were so manifestly clear, that to most of them they could say nothing; and what they could say, was overruled by undeniable proofs that were brought against them.

As to the *Murther*, it was proved by several of the Coun-

Country-men that took them, That *Jackson* run *Henry Miller* in at the Left Side, upon which he immediately dyed: And that the other, *Edward Kemp*, was shot by *Slader* deceased.

It being then urged, That they were all guilty of the Murther, in that they were all together assisting one another against a Power that was lawfully raised to take them upon the *Hue-and-Cry* sent after them, *Parker* insisted, That he was altogether Innocent of the Murther, being before his Company as far as *Islington*, when the Murther was done at *Hampstead*; But that was disproved by Several Witnesses that swore they were all together, or within a little one of another when the Murthers were Committed. Hereupon the Tryal having lasted above Six hours in all, the Jury were sent out to consider of their Verdict, which after a Quarter of an hours stay, they brought in thus, That they were all Guilty of the Several Facts laid in their Indictments of Felony and Robbery; Except in the Two first, which could not be so apparently proved against two of them.

Upon the Two first Indictments for the Murther of *Miller*, *Jackson*, *Parker* and *Williams* were found Guilty; but *White* was Acquitted, for that he was taken before that Murther was committed: But upon the Two last Indictments for the Murther of *Kemp*, they were all Four found Guilty. And the next day they had Sentence of Death pass'd upon them.

FINIS